

The **H** *Magazine for the Christian Home*
earthstone

BERKELEY BAPTIST DIVINITY SCHOOL
SANDFORD ELEMING LIBRARY

- **Youth on the Telephone - Dorothy France**
- **Doing It Together Is More Fun - William Folprecht**

JANUARY, 1957 - 25c

Hearthstone

E. LEE NEAL, *Editor*

SUE H. WOLLAM, *Assistant Editor*

NATALIE ROTEN, *layout*

Contents

ARTICLES

Youth on the Telephone	Dorothy France	2
She Baked a Cake . . . and let the credit go . . .	Doris Ruth Hohlfeld	4
Doing It Together Is More Fun	William Folprecht	8
How to Get to Church School on Time	Alpha Mell Stuart	11
American Amateur Artists	Marion L. Briggs	13
Spiritual Care and Feeding of Adolescents (Study Article and Guide for Parents' Groups) .	Vera Channels	22
This Lent, Launch Family Worship	Ruth Cummings Sanborn	26

STORIES

Just an Old Friend	Sue H. Wollam	6
Stories for Children		
Teresa Listens at Last	Enola Chamberlin	18
The Birds' January Christmas	Helen Houston Boileau	18

FEATURES

Family Life Around the World		1
Hannibal . . . Boyhood Home of Mark Twain . .	photo feature by erb	16
Worship in the Family with Children		19
Biblegram	Hilda E. Allen	25
Family Counselor	Donald M. Maynard	29
Books for the Hearthside		30
Over the Back Fence		32
Poetry Page	Inside back cover	

Cover picture by A. Devaney, Inc.

Published Jointly Each Month By

Christian Board of Publication

WILBUR H. CRAMBLET, *President*
Beaumont and Pine Boulevard
Box 179, St. Louis 3, Missouri

The American Baptist Publication Society

LUTHER WESLEY SMITH, *Executive Secretary*
1703 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Editorial Committee

Vol. 9

Marvin E. Smith, *Editor-in-Chief*
Jessie B. Carlson, *Children's Editor*
Ray L. Henthorne, *Youth Editor*
Sherman Hanson, *Assistant Youth Editor*
E. Lee Neal, *Adult and Family Life Editor*
Richard E. Lentz, *Director Family Life*

No. 1

Benjamin P. Browne, *Director Christian Publications*
Marian Brawn, *Children's Editor*
Elizabeth Tibbals, *Assistant Children's Editor*
Lawrence Fitzgerald, *Youth Editor*
Charles W. Griffin, *Uniform Lesson Editor*
Francis E. Whiting, *Adult Editor*
Joseph J. Hanson, *Director Family Life*

Second class mail privileges authorized at St. Louis, Mo.

All books and printed matter referred to in *Hearthstone* may be ordered from either publishing house. All prices are subject to change without notice.

The Scripture quotations are from the Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible, copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., 1946, 1952. Used by permission.

Price, 25 cents per single copy; five or more copies to one address, 20 cents each (60 cents per quarter); single subscriptions, \$3.00 per year.

Copyright 1956 by the Christian Board of Publication and the American Baptist Publication Society

Printed in St. Louis, Mo., U. S. A.



You Can't Be Good in Everything

There was a time when I was discouraged because I couldn't play basketball so skillfully as the other girls in eighth grade gym class. When I was in the third grade, I thought that I was a dunce because I couldn't seem to learn long division—and the others weren't having any apparent difficulty. There were times when I felt inferior because I couldn't operate even the simplest mechanical devices, or play a good game of Canasta, or create useful articles out of useless objects.

Then, when I was a teen-ager, I began to quit deriding myself for things that I couldn't do; for I discovered that other people had deficiencies, too. Instead, I began concentrating on my natural aptitudes. Classmates from my high school and college days remember me as one of the "brains" in French and Spanish class, not as the dullard in physics and geometry class. At parties and other social functions, where I often play almost any tune on the piano by ear, I am sure that it never occurs to the other guests that I am less-than-competent on the tennis court.

Don't strive for perfection in everything. Do your best in the things in which you excel, but don't beat your head futilely against a stone wall because there are certain things which you can't master. I am not implying that you become lax and indifferent when you discover that you don't have any natural ability for certain things. But don't try in vain to become accomplished in something for which you have no outstanding talent. You'll be much happier doing your best in things in which you excel.

Remember, too, that even most geniuses aren't good in everything.

What's Here? Dad is expecting an important business call. Mom is waiting anxiously to find out whether Aunt Ellen had a boy or a girl. Neither of them, alas, will ever receive their calls unless teen-age daughter Janie relinquishes the phone. If the teen-agers in your family think that they are the sole heirs to Alexander Graham Bell's marvelous device, have them read "Youth on the Telephone," by Dorothy France.

What's Coming? Look for "Who Is My Neighbor?" "Achieved Happiness," "Your Ally—the Church," "You Owe It to Yourself," and others.

Till next month, ~

S. W.

FAMILY LIFE AROUND THE WORLD

● Problems Facing German Families

Frankfurt, Germany—In speaking to the 500,000 who attended the Seventh German Evangelical *Kirchentag* here, Reinhold von Thadden-Trieglaff pointed to these conditions of family life:

"Taking our stand on the message of the Bible, we discussed marriage, which many people today seem to feel burdensome. We also discussed the difficulties which face women today in their occupations, torn between people and machines. We talked about the dangers facing the younger generations as they grow up; and the challenge of increasing automation. We spoke of village life, the countryside, and the loss of the old peaceful Sunday. The plight of millions who are cramped in little flats and crushed by circumstances, and who even in the midst of the traffic in the streets are utterly alone. There is the question of the fate of people organized in associations and organizations; and the pressing problem of the division of our nation, and the question of international peace and reconciliation."

All of these problems make family life and the place of Christianity in it of supreme importance.

● A New Study of American Family Life

Gilmanton, N. H.—Two professors of sociology, a Roman Catholic priest and a Protestant layman, are completing a nationwide study of American family life here. They are Dr. Carle C. Zimmerman, professor of sociology at Harvard University, and the Rev. Lucius F. Cervantes, S.J., professor of sociology at Regis College, Denver.

It is their second joint study. Results of an earlier one were reported in their book, *Marriage in the Family*. The two said their current study, financed by the Ford Foundation, has renewed their confidence in the strength of family life in the United States.

Some of their conclusions, based on a study of 300,000 people in eight large cities, are as follows:

Family life has a greater chance of success if husband and wife have common backgrounds and interests and if their closest friends share the same background and interests.

"Extreme" income families have more trouble with their children than do moderate-income families. The



—H. Armstrong Roberts

"extreme" income families were defined as those with less than \$2,000 and over \$10,000 a year.

Families in which parents are of different faiths have more trouble than those in which the father and the mother hold the same religious views.

Big-city living does not disrupt family life.

● Snap Shots

Cambodia has adopted a system of family allowance. There are now thirty-five nations in the world that give some kind of assistance to families in meeting the expense of rearing children.

Turkey has established a national program of education to help women become better mothers and housekeepers. Large cities are offering evening classes while villages and rural communities are setting up special courses for this purpose.

Romania has revised its code of family legislation in general accord with Communist principles. The new code sets forth the equality of sexes; hence the father is no longer regarded as head of the family, and decisions must be made by accord between husband and wife. The latter is not compelled to take the husband's name at marriage. Divorce is now permitted on demand of either person, after the judge has made an attempt at reconciliation.

In *Gujarat, India*, social workers have been appalled at the high increase of suicides among married women. Persecution by the husband or members of his family was listed as the primary cause. An ex-governor of Bombay suggested that punishments be provided for those guilty of persecution, such as mothers-in-law or sisters-in-law.

● Who Is to Blame?

Fulda, Germany—Germans themselves must assume a part of the blame for bad behavior and even

(Continued on page 31)



Youth on the Telephone

Dear Nann:

I am working at the hospital today. Please get the following things done this afternoon before I get home. Fold the clothes in the clothes basket & put away all of them that you can. Wash off the freezer. Bake a yellow cake: the icing recipe is laid out for you. You can do all this in less than an hour & a half if you stick to it. But you cannot get it done by hanging on the telephone!

Love,
Mother

Could this note have been written to you? Does the last line sound familiar? "But you cannot get it done by hanging on the telephone."

Teen-agers today seem to have hanging habits. They are found hanging out at the corner drugstore, the record shop, the theater, or the skating rink. Many teen-agers also have a habit of literally hanging on the telephone.

Nann was no different from the average teen-ager. She was a high school junior; attractive, sociable, and honest in all her endeavors. But she had developed a habit that annoyed her parents and other family members very much. She had become possessed by the telephone. Of course, telephones are wonderful things. When they are used improperly, however, much confusion and misunderstanding can result in the home. This was the case at Nann's house.

Nann's telephone day usually began each morning just before she left for school or wherever she might be going. She always called her best girl friend to tell her she was leaving the house and would see her in a few minutes. In the afternoon she called and received calls from several of her friends. She relaxed with a coke and the telephone. Often she turned on the record player or radio and set the volume up as high as it would go so the friend she was talking to could hear the music. An hour would easily pass with nothing being accomplished but just general "teen" talk.

About five o'clock each evening she wanted the telephone to be free so she could get her daily call from Tom. At present Tom was her favorite beau. This conversation usually lasted until the evening meal was ready and the rest of the family was seated at the table. Only after being called several times would she arrive at the table.

Hardly was the table cleared and the dishes washed before she dashed to the phone again. This time she had to call Alice. Each evening the two of them had

to re-live the high lights of the past day and plan the wardrobe and activity of the next one. Nann often failed to hear the doorbell or speak when company arrived because she was so wrapped up in her conversation. Usually, her last call of the day was ended at the insistence of her parents or after Nann became annoyed because someone on the party line kept picking up the receiver.

During the summer months almost every moment she was home was spent either making or receiving calls. She monopolized the phone. There was little chance for anyone else to make or receive a phone call when she was around. Nann's repeated use of the phone and her lengthy and often foolish conversations provided the main source of misunderstanding between her and her parents. She failed to respect and recognize the rights of the other members of her family or her friends because she was concerned only with her own wishes. She had not come to realize that the principle contained in the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," needed to be applied in the use of the telephone as well as in the other phases of her activity.

Nann's lack of telephone manners had unfortunate consequences in many ways. A closer look at her telephone day reveals some of these consequences. Nann's excessive use of the telephone made it difficult for anyone else to make or receive a call. Her mother often missed club and church affairs because she could not be contacted by phone. Her father failed to make several business transactions because the line was busy when a client called. Her brother and sister gave up trying to use the phone and often went to a neighbor's house when it was necessary to make a call. She truly "hogged the line."

Then Nann never considered the time of day or night when making a call. If the hour was convenient for her, that was all that mattered. In making her early morning call she did not consider that it

might be the busiest hour in her friend's home, with adults getting off to work, children getting ready for school, and household chores being set in motion. Her daily chat with Tom could have been arranged at an hour when it would not have inconvenienced the other members of her family just as they sat down to supper; but Nann never thought of that. Nann never thought to ask if the other person was free to talk at the moment she called. She just went right ahead with her conversation and often was offended if she was asked to call back later.

Apparently, Nann was never aware of the effect her telephone habits had on her family and on guests who visited in her home. Instead of excusing herself from the phone when the family was ready to do something together or when guests arrived, she just "hung on the phone," unmindful that others were waiting for her or that her phone talk was keeping others from personal talk. Nann was very inconsiderate of the persons on her party line. Her frequent and lengthy calls afforded little opportunity for others to use the line. Emergencies which might arise and require the use of the phone by others were never considered. Nann was a sociable girl and would have considered herself a good neighbor; but she never thought of sharing a party line as an act of neighborliness.

A telephone dilemma really existed in Nann's home. A similar situation can be found in the homes of many teen-agers. The problem need not be a serious one, however, if all those concerned really make an attempt to solve it.

How are your telephone manners? Does the use of the telephone create a problem in your home? Test yourself by using the questions listed below and see how you rate.

1. Do you stay on the line for long periods of time without giving anyone else a chance to use the phone?
2. Do you fail to speak clearly, distinctly, or loud enough to be heard and understood by the person you are calling?
3. Do you call when it is convenient for you to talk, but without thinking to ask if the other person is free right then?
4. Do you call too early in the morning, too late at night, or at an hour that you know is inconvenient for others?
5. Do you hog a party line in spite of the fact that you know someone else wants to make a call?
6. Do you listen to the conversation when you pick up the phone and find that someone on your party line is talking, or do you place the phone quickly and quietly back on the receiver?

7. Do you speak rudely and abruptly when someone says "wrong number"?
8. Do you repeatedly call the same persons when one call could fulfill the same purpose?
9. Do you carry on a conversation over the phone that seems like pure nonsense and is irritating to those around you?
10. Do you fail to consider the activities which might be taking place in your home and place your calls at a time that is not convenient for the others in your family?

If you answered "no" to all of the above questions, then you have already learned to use the telephone in a Christian manner. If, however, you answered "yes" to any of them, you need to face the fact that there are weaknesses in your telephone manners. Begin disciplining yourself in the observance of correct telephone usage. Good telephone manners are just as important in the life of a Christian young person as are good taste in clothes and proper behavior in public. The way you use the phone may reveal the type of person you are. Use the phone certainly; but use it wisely.

Might this teen-age girl be you, hogging the telephone so that Dad is unable to receive an important business call, or Mom can't phone her order to the grocery?

A. Devaney, Inc.



She Baked a Cake . .

The young wife stared at her husband. She could not believe what she had just heard. Failure had come so quickly.

The business venture that had been so carefully planned had collapsed. In one day they had lost a coal business, their farm at the edge of town, and their savings. Only their home in town remained. It seemed impossible that after the food in these cupboards was gone, there would be no money to pay for more.

"You'll have to ask for credit at the store," her husband said. He was leaving for a week in which he would try to save what he could, but she knew that it was not going to be much.

"But what will we pay with?" she asked softly.

"I don't know."

"I can't do it," she said suddenly. "We can't ask the grocer to feed us." She felt tears come to her eyes. "I won't do it."

And she didn't.

This is the story of Mrs. C. D. Hopkins. She lives in St. Albans, West Virginia, where it all began during the first World War.

"I didn't know what to do," says Mrs. Hopkins, "but I did know that I wasn't going to ask for credit." After a pause, she explains, "So I prayed. I prayed to know."

There were two small sons to be cared for, and the days were full of the despair over the question, "What shall I do?" What could a housewife do?

The answer came one night as she prayed.

"I knew," says Mrs. Hopkins. "There was one thing that I could do. Everyone admitted that. I could bake cakes."

She could hardly wait for morning. Before the stores opened, two large sheet cakes stood on the kitchen table. By nine o'clock the

cakes were in the grocer's showcase.

"I received two dollars apiece for them," Mrs. Hopkins smiles at the memory. "And you would have thought I was really rich."

The cakes had sold quickly, and the grocer decided that he could use more of them. In fact, he thought that he could sell as many as Mrs. Hopkins baked. When Mr. Hopkins came home at the end of the week, he found his wife in the kitchen surrounded by flour, sugar, and baking powder. The thought of asking for credit had given away to dreams of new kinds of cakes to make.

As the weeks went by, Mrs. Hopkins gained fame with her cakes. Soon stores in Charleston and other nearby towns began asking

her to bake cakes for them to sell, too. Cakes rapidly became a business.

People began to come to Mrs. Hopkins with orders for special cakes for birthdays and anniversaries. She found that making wedding cakes soon began to take up a large part of her time. Gradually, they became a specialty.

"I've made as many as ten wedding cakes in a week," Mrs. Hopkins says and then, with a look full of memories, adds, "I've made birthday cakes for many little girls and then in later years baked their wedding cakes. I even made a wedding cake for a girl and then years later made one for that girl's daughter."

The average large wedding cake that Mrs. Hopkins makes weighs

Mrs. C. D. Hopkins, of St. Albans, West Virginia, began baking cakes during World War I, when her husband lost his business. Today, she is still baking cakes.



Hupco Photograph

and let the credit go!

from twenty-five to thirty pounds. The cakes are decorated with lilies of the valley and roses. Mrs. Hopkins also makes a special sugar bell to put on top of the cakes. One of Mrs. Hopkins' wedding cakes is baked in a star-shaped tin which she copied from an antique cake pan. Many cakes are decorated so that each tier matches the color of one of the bridesmaids' dresses.

"Make every cake better than the one before. That has always been my motto," Mrs. Hopkins explains.

As time went by, Mrs. Hopkins decided that it was necessary to "study" cakemaking, if she was to maintain this motto. She attended schools in New York and Chicago. There she learned more about baking and decorating cakes and even the process of making tea sandwiches. Her schooling in cakes has, of course, always included the shop window of every bakery which she passes.

Money came in rapidly as her cake business expanded. There was no longer any thought of asking for credit to buy food. Now the goal lay in keeping up with the orders for more and more baking.

To make way for the growing cake business, Mrs. Hopkins expanded her kitchen to include the whole porch of her home. The family-size stove gave place to three giant stoves that now dominate the space.

In order to keep up with special orders, Mrs. Hopkins, a number of years ago, stopped baking cakes for groceries. Now her cakes are made only to order. They range in size from cupcakes to wedding cakes that serve eight hundred guests and weigh one hundred and thirty-three pounds. These cakes grace every kind of occasion from baby's first birthday party to court dinners. They have traveled all over the world, from New York to

California, and from West Virginia to Greece.

Although wedding cakes are a specialty, Mrs. Hopkins has baked as many as 3,000 pounds of fruitcake in the two months preceding Christmas.

"Of course," she says, "I did have to hire someone to help me then." In fact, Mrs. Hopkins has had three helpers at times, and many of her work days have been seventeen hours long. "Fruitcake season" in the late fall is the busiest time of year.

"There are days," Mrs. Hopkins explains, "when I never even see the newspaper because I'm so busy."

Mrs. Hopkins makes light and dark fruitcakes and packs them in tins. One year during the second

by

Doris Ruth Hohlfield

World War, she bought every gallon sorghum bucket in St. Albans and Charleston. "They were the only kind of container I could get to pack my fruitcakes in, so I took them to the town tinner. He cut them down to size, and I packed the cakes in those."

Because fruitcakes keep well and are easy to mail, they travel greater distances than Mrs. Hopkins' other cakes. Holiday season finds them on their way all over the world.

Mrs. Hopkins likes to tell how one of her fruitcakes was served at a court dinner in London at St. James Hall. It had been ordered by a member of the American diplomatic service for the Christmas holidays. Since that time Mrs.

Hopkins' cakes have found enthusiastic consumers at many other such functions in European countries.

Today Mrs. Hopkins is seventy-two years old. She has white hair, but her eyes deny age as they sparkle with the telling of her story. There are places where they fill with tears and places where they shine with gratitude.

At the present time the Hopkinses again own the farm that they lost. The two sons were each given the opportunity for a college education.

Mrs. Hopkins is a member of the First Baptist Church of St. Albans. She takes a vital interest in church affairs and now wears a pin from fellow members for her forty-two years of service in the choir. Twice vacations have taken her to the Baptist World Alliance meetings.

Mrs. Hopkins is still baking cakes. She has cut down on the number, however. The time has come when she should relax more, and she realizes the fact. Life was made for rest as well as for work.

"I've never been ill in my life," she explains. "I'm never nervous. And I like to eat cake."

Mrs. Hopkins claims that the only secret to the success of her cooking is her use of the best ingredients. "Always fresh butter and milk for my cakes. And no commercial mixes for anything. It's all in using the best ingredients."

Then she smiles and adds, "But I'll give my cake recipe to anyone and dare him to bake a better cake than I do."

Mrs. Hopkins is a woman who found that cake was the answer to a prayer, that the thing she really could do best was the answer to her problem. She offers her challenge with a smile, daring others to "bake a better cake."

Her eyes were bright and sparkling, like a schoolgirl's.
"Hi, sweetie pie," she cooed. "Guess where I was today?"



Roten

Illustrated by Natalie Roten



Emilie Frazer glanced out of the picture window in the living room, just in time to see Bert, her husband, come up the front walk and disappear through the side door.

"Hi, honey," he called expectantly. "I'm home."

"Hi, yourself," Emilie returned his cheery greeting. "Supper will be ready in a jiffy."

Bert sat down in a comfortable chair and with a ludicrous groan for imaginary aches and pains, removed his shoes. "I'm not really hungry," he said amiably. "Say, guess who I had lunch with today?"

"Who?" Emilie asked disinterestedly.

"Guess!" Bert insisted.

Emilie felt a trifle annoyed.

Just an Old Friend

"How on earth would I know?" she asked reasonably.

"Well, since you're going to be that way about it, I'll tell you. Lisa Cameron."

"Lisa Cameron!" Emilie felt a strangling sensation in her throat. "Isn't she—I mean, wasn't she one of your old girl friends?"

Bert ignored her question. "She's just an old friend; honey," he said. "I happened to run into her at lunch time when I was going into the restaurant where I regularly eat, and there she was. Naturally, I couldn't be rude. So I invited her to have lunch with me."

by

Sue H. Wollam

"Naturally," said Emilie sarcastically. "Is she married?"

"Uh—well, no," Bert gulped. "But for heaven's sake, why are you so peeved? I just asked her to lunch."

"An old flame," Emilie muttered.

"Now listen," Bert exploded. "She's just a friend. You're making a mountain out of a molehill. Why, I do believe you're even jealous."

"Well, why shouldn't I be provoked when my husband treats an old girl friend to lunch?" Emilie raged.

"She's only an old friend, I tell you," Bert stormed.

"Now, you're trying to expurgate the facts, and you know it," Emilie said angrily. "I thought I could trust my own husband."

"Aw, honey," Bert suddenly be-

came contrite. "Please don't be mad at me."

Emilie was saved the bother of making a suitable reply, because the baby started to howl for his evening bottle. She went into the kitchen for the sterilized bottle, and then went into the baby's room to feed him.

Afterwards, Emilie and Bert ate supper in belligerent silence. Emilie even refused Bert's offer to dry the dishes. She wanted to be alone to think—

Later that night, when both of them were in bed, Bert reached out a hand in the darkness and drew Emilie to him.

"Sweetheart," he said, almost pleadingly, "please don't be mad at me any more." He sounded so penitent and remorseful, that Emilie's heart melted in forgiveness. She leaned over and kissed his damp forehead. "O.K.," she whispered.

"I'm glad that you realize that it's perfectly silly for you to be mad, just because I took a woman to lunch."

But Emilie didn't say anything more.

* * *

One night, about two weeks later, Bert came home from work to find his wife not at home. He wandered into the kitchen and found a note, which Emilie had written, on the table.

Dear Bert:

I might be just a little late tonight. An old friend called me up this morning and invited me to lunch. Naturally, I couldn't be rude and refuse. So I went down town, and left the baby with Mom.

love 'n kisses, Emilie

Bert felt faintly uneasy, and rather annoyed. It wasn't like Emilie to waste a day in gadding about. What could she be thinking of!

At 6:30 Emilie came home, carrying baby Mike in her arms. Her eyes were bright and sparkling, like a schoolgirl's, and she had on her best lime green linen sheath dress with a V neck, and her green linen shoes to match. Perched rakishly on her head was

a petite hat of a darker green, which brought out the shine of her dark brown hair.

"Hi, sweetie pie," she cooed, giving Bert a kiss on the cheek. "Guess where I was today?"

"I—I can't imagine," Bert said faintly.

"Wait till I put Mikey to bed, and I'll tell you all about it."

A minute later she was back.

"Oh, darling, guess what?" she effervesced. "While I was washing dishes this morning, the phone rang, and do you know who it was?"

Bert shook his head numbly.

"Frank Brady," Emilie ejaculated. "Of all of the people in this whole wide world, he is absolutely the last person I ever expected to hear from. You've heard me talk about Frank. We were pinned when we were in college, but he's just an *old friend* now. Well, anyway, he was in town on a business trip, and he invited me to have lunch with him. So I parked the baby with Mom, and met Frank downtown, and had a perfectly marvelous time."

"Do you mean to tell me," Bert whispered hoarsely, "that you actually went out with a *man*?"

Emilie looked at him like a wide-eyed innocent little girl. "Why, of course," she said candidly. "He's a dear old friend of mine, and it would have been dreadfully rude to refuse to have lunch with him."

"An old boy friend," Bert muttered. "How could you do this to me?"

There was mocking laughter in Emilie's eyes, as she said, "Why, darling, he's just an old friend. And you certainly don't object to having lunch with old friends. Don't you remember having lunch with an old friend named Lisa Cameron not more than two weeks ago?"

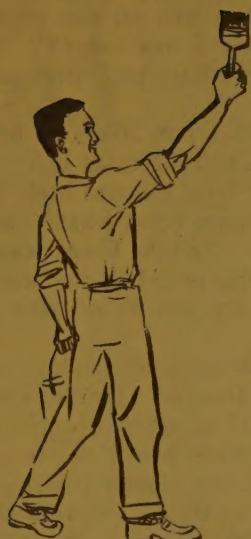
For once in his life Bert Frazer felt completely inadequate to cope with a situation. "I—she's just a friend," he broke off lamely. "That was different."

"Oh?" Emilie raised her eyebrows. "But dear old Frank is just a friend, too," she said logically.

(Continued on page 28)

Doing it TOGETHER

is more fun



by William Folprecht

Recently, when a prominent psychologist advocated letting small children play with matches, parents all over America threw up their hands in horror at the very idea. When the expert in question proceeded to explain his theory, however, calm began to prevail; for there was much value in the matchbox idea.

The psychologist pointed out that sooner or later children have to learn how to use matches, and they might as well learn at an early age—under direct supervision, of course. In fact, it was recommended that the parent take the child into the back yard and there, closely guarding the little tot from danger, permit him to strike several matches and see the results.

The matches, of course, are only a symbol. Everything that a boy or girl has to learn to use in life will have to be acquired by experience. There is no royal road to anything—learning to read French, quoting Shakespeare, or changing diapers. Experience is the best teacher. Since this is so, should parents, the world's most effective teachers, adopt this technique to help the young lives entrusted to their care during the important, formative years?

The basic thought of that psychologist is solid. His theory has been proved by those who work with boys and girls: their own and others in summer camps, Big Brother clubs, YMCA's, Sunday church schools, and daily vacation church schools. Doing it together is more effective, more fun, and the happiest of the several ways for a child to learn.

Many thoughtful persons have felt that there is a

Seylla and a Charybdis to avoid in rearing or teaching children, particularly those below the teen age. On the one hand there is the parent who "does everything" for the child. You've seen him: he's the enthusiastic father who so monopolizes the new Christmas electric train that Junior never gets a chance to play with it himself. Or, that new bird-house is fabricated entirely by Dad while Tommy stands by disconsolately wondering when he is ever going to be able to hold a tool in his hand. You know the kind of parent we're talking about.

On the other hand, there is the mother or father who is just too busy to bother with the children. "We've got so much to do, you just go and play by yourself," is the common answer of these parents when children call for help. God alone knows the countless multitudes of youngsters who have suffered because their parents were "just too busy" to bother with them!

No, neither of these two attitudes—doing it all for the son or daughter that God has given you to care for, or letting the youngster "learn the hard way"—is the answer.

Here at our home with Teddy, age five, and Clara Helen, now eight, we have found the "middle road" the best solution to the question, How shall we rear our children? It has worked, too, in every instance with boys and girls in outside activities, all the way from recreation to Bible study. It has worked even with the children to whom I give religious instruction in our polio hospital here in this city.

The whole thing in the proverbial nutshell is this: Let the child or children learn by doing, under your close supervision. Give the youngster a chance to work *with* you, not stand by idly as a spectator. It sounds simple, but there are many simple truths in this world that we might well try to put into practice. It works in at least three of the major areas of our lives, we've discovered.

While it is true that children do not always want their parents to be part of their playtime hours, we have found countless opportunities to have fun together. Anyone coming suddenly into our home on certain occasions might well be justified to think that a straitjacket for me would be more the fashion than my usual tweed suit. They may find me acting the role of a customer in a barber shop, for example; but it's fun playing together, and it helps develop comradeship between parent and child.

Sometimes a little ball playing on the lawn or in the back yard is just the thing for Dad—or Mother, too. This may result in a couple of weary, unused muscles which had begun to atrophy for lack of use, but it's worth it!

Years ago we befriended a boy. From Korea, he wrote of the happy times we had enjoyed together. There was something wistful in this note written by a boy in the thick of the horrors of modern warfare. We had become his comrades because he came from a broken home where the father had no time to play with his son. Such a letter justifies my contention that doing it together develops comradeship—and love.

There are many ways in which parents can play

and romp with their children. They can also discuss with the youngsters their other playtime programs, the activities in which Dad or Mom perhaps cannot participate, such as those in school. This is important. At least if we can't slide on the sliding ponds with them, or engage in any of the other stunts they enjoy, we can listen interestedly when they talk about these things. Recreation is a very important part of children's lives.

In addition to playing with our children, we can work with them, too. Recently, when I laboriously dragged out the heavy storm windows to clean and prepare them for hanging, five-year-old Teddy of his own volition came over and suggested that he help me clean them.

The two of us worked, side by side, father and son, applying the glass wax and then rubbing it off. Of course, I had to supervise closely. I didn't give him the one window with a slight crack in it either; I took that one myself. I had to go over parts of his windows which he had unsatisfactorily wiped, it's true; but we worked together.

The same thing happened when I raked the leaves last spring. Both the children were home that day, and they chipped in to carry baskets of leaves to the pile as I raked them out of the bushes.

Last summer, when we built a sandbox for the children in the back yard, both of them helped. They had a gay time, under my direction, particularly as they painted the box a beautiful green (the only extra paint we had left down in the cellar!).

Such teamwork has been apparent in our home in other directions, too. Teddy and Clara have helped

photo by erb



Parents should take time to play with their children—even if some of their activities seem to be a bit juvenile. Making clay figures is a lot more fun for the kiddies when Mom and Dad are doing it, too.

me clean the fireplace, straighten out the cellar, bring in the milk bottles, and answer the telephone.

Along with our program of co-operation in the realms of work and play, we have made also, we believe, encouraging progress in the area of the spirit. For some years now we have gone to church together, and worshiped there as a family unit. In addition we have instituted the practice of returning thanks at every meal when the family is together. As we "say grace," we hold hands, and the circle is never broken, even when guests are present. In fact, then it is enlarged, and our guests are initiated into this important phase of our family's life together.

Each night, too, we read the children a Bible story from a book that is properly graded to their under-

Whatever the phase of teamwork between parent and child, however, we have been guided by several basic considerations. They are vital, we feel, if this program of co-operation for the child's development is to be successful.

1. Young children sometimes tire more quickly than we realize. This always should be taken into account.
2. Young children usually cannot focus long on any given subject or chore. Be patient with them, and remember that after all their powers of concentration are not so developed as yours. Varying even a phase of the subject at hand, with still the same primary objective, can save the day.
3. When it's near bedtime, or when children are hungry or when they are convalescing from a recent illness, remember that they are not equipped mentally or physically to do the heavier jobs. Save



standing. Sometimes a series of questions at the conclusion of the story is handled in a humorous way by my pretending to be "Dr. I.Q.," and suggesting that so many "silver dollars" will be awarded for the correct answer.

Several years ago we began family worship of a different sort, when we started "playing church." At the call, "Let's play church!" the children run for hymnbooks. Then, with one of them representing the choir and another the congregation, a brief worship service is held.

Sometimes I am the worship leader and read a short Bible story or portion of scripture. We all sing a song, and sometimes each child sings a solo. Other times one of the children leads the service. These moments of worship are a good way to start having what has been called a family altar.

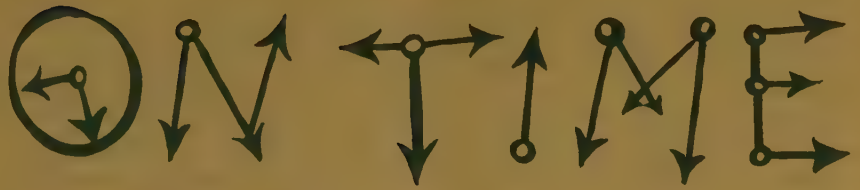
these things for the hours when such activities will be a source of pleasure.

Some time ago we learned of a noted jurist whose own son appeared before him for sentencing. To an intimate friend the judge sorrowfully confided that the fault was his, not the boy's. "I am the criminal," the magistrate admitted. "I neglected to become a companion to my own son even while considering the cases of other parents who had likewise been negligent in rearing their children properly."

The warning from this otherwise brilliant man should challenge all mothers and fathers to try doing it together with their children. The results might surprise us all!

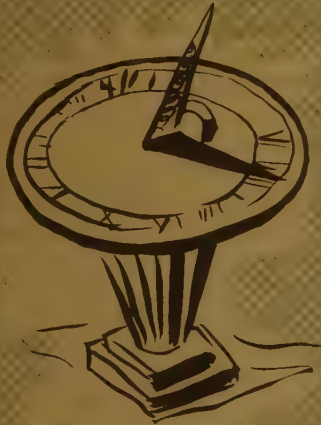


How to get to Church School



by Alpha Mell Stuart

**It's such a great temptation to take that extra
snooze on Sunday morning, isn't it?**



If this article were titled, "How to Get to Church on Time," the solution to the problem would be simple, according to a 75-year-old man who has reared a churchgoing family of seven. He said recently, "Getting to church on time is easy. All you have to do is to get to church *school* on time."

That is the problem. Getting to church school early has always plagued well-meaning families. It's a general problem.

Ask any family in your church the question, "How do you get your family awake on Sunday morning and get to church on time?" You'll get an immediate response. It may be a shrug and the wry admission, "We don't. It's impossible." Or the answer may be a cynical, "We get there, but there must be an easier way. I wish you'd tell me how."

Yes, it is everybody's problem. It belongs to Judy O'Grady, as well as to the colonel's lady. It belongs to the family with five children, as well as to the family with one child. It is just as difficult for the family living next door to the church as it is for the family driving a ten-mile stretch from home to the church door.

Everyone seems to run into trouble when it comes to rising Sunday morning, dressing, eating

breakfast, and transporting the entire family to a house of worship.

Why is it hard? What's so difficult about going to church and managing to arrive a few minutes before the first bell? Why do many families just give up and never make the effort? Why do others admit that there is a weekly struggle that everyone deplores but nobody does anything about?

Why is it so difficult to get to church school on time?

Let's probe a few points discussed recently by a church school class of parents.

First, every father and mother admitted the problem. And each family thought that the problem was their particular Jonah. They showed surprise that getting to church school on time could be a worry to anyone else. Each family thought that they alone had a corner on Sunday morning troubles. They all recognized the problem.

The fact was brought out that it is only on Sunday that every member of the family has to be ready at a certain time and leave the house at a certain time. On weekdays there are usually "breathing spells" between each member's exodus from home. Mother feeds Father and gets him off to work. The schoolchildren and the children too young to go



to school move along at different speeds and different schedules. The early morning atmosphere on weekdays may be hectic, parents say, but it is nothing compared to Sunday morning when everyone has to be ready at the same moment to leave the house and proceed in a family group to the church.

Next, many families confessed that they had not worked out a Sunday routine. Every week, after the usual scramble, with tears and hurt feelings not uncommon, the parents would resolve to get the situation a little under control "before next Sunday." Then they would forget. "We keep thinking we'll do better," they say, "but it never happens."

A mother of teen-agers was heard with approval when she stated, "I think we try to do too much on Sunday morning. I find myself preparing picnic food to be eaten that evening, or helping my youngsters collect their outing equipment for later in the day. Instead of getting ready for church, I am usually getting ready for everything else we want to do that day."

It is entirely possible for a modern-day family to plan and carry out a half dozen or more activities on any one Sunday. In our grandparents' day, this couldn't happen.

Sunday was churchgoing day, and what time was left was spent in "rest" or idleness.

Today, families are encouraged to worship together and to play together on Sundays. Some families are able to balance worship with recreation, with each in its proper perspective. These families seem to have the least clock trouble on Sunday mornings.

It was also mentioned by the parents that they and their neighbors leave many weekday jobs to be done on Sunday. Many save the Lord's Day for mowing the grass or cleaning the gutters or putting up the storm windows. Somehow, these nuisance chores are put off until Sunday. Then, the father, with the help of the family, plunges into these jobs, and getting to early church school becomes a burden too hard to bear.

Other parents said that they were guilty of thinking of Sunday as their own possession and as a day to plan and to use for their pleasure and benefit. A farmer said, "I work hard six days a week, and I guess on Sunday I just got to considering I didn't need to do anything else but what I wanted to do. We'd get up late, dawdle around getting dressed for Sunday school, and wonder why we were always late. Wrong thinking, I'd say."

The farmer's last sentence is the key to the whole problem. Wrong thinking.

In trying for a solution, parents admitted that they had not seen the problem in its correct light. "We have been struggling with the results of poor thinking," they said. "Let's start at the beginning and straighten out our ideas. After that, we can find some practical ways to whip this problem."

Starting at the beginning meant a complete change of thinking for many families. They found that, as Christian parents living the Christian example for their children, they must make an about-face from the old customs on Sunday morning.

They discovered that they must change their thinking *before* they changed their habits. They stated, after serious searching, that the family must *believe* that going to church school and church is the most important act of the day. Believing this, the family must be duty bound to put the belief into action honestly and unequivocally.

Parents who had been reared in this tradition endorsed it proudly and witnessed to its benefits in their own lives. They were among those who found it comparatively easy to assemble their families at the church on Sunday morning.

Right thinking, meaning a "We're going to church school, and we're getting there on time every Sunday" attitude, was agreed by all parents to be the proper starting point.

It was also considered the only approach compatible with the highest standards of Christian training.

As to actual practices of the art (and the word "art" here is a most appropriate one) of getting a family to church school on time, there were several suggestions offered. These practices were guaranteed, but everyone admitted that it took effort to make them succeed.

A mother of three young boys, whose husband teaches a class and who herself is superintendent of a junior department, told how she allots different tasks to each member of the family every Sunday

(Continued on page 28)

This family arrived in plenty of time for church school. You can, too, if you put forth the effort.

—Herbert Lambert



American Amateur Artists

by Marion L. Briggs

Many people have found that painting is a very relaxing,
as well as rewarding hobby

The amateur art movement is extending culture in the United States and bringing a lively new interest to many people. Even more important, it is getting family members closer together in a common understanding.

Recently, a grandmother in Atlanta, Georgia got a real start on this hobby, after being encouraged by her grandchildren. It is adding new joy to her life and some financial profit.

Baby sitting one evening in her daughter's home, she saw a china plate, used for decorative purposes, which had a painting of nasturtiums on it. Although she had never had any art training, she was sensitive to a certain crudeness and harshness about the painting.

"I can do better than that," she said to herself, and picked up her grandson's water-color set and went to work.

Up to this point she had been satisfied to express any innate artistic talent she possessed in music; but she now remembered the statement of Arthur Gup-till, president of the Amateur Artists Association of America, Inc., declaring that anyone of normal intelligence can learn to draw and that most people get discouraged just when they are making real progress.

The enthusiasm of the youngsters when they saw what she had done was enough to make her want to do more. Gradually, it came to be a matter of pleasing herself, as well as others, and in one room in her apartment she set up a studio to which she turns for relaxation during the evenings after her day as a stenographer. Here she paints leaf sprays from native chinquapin, pine, tupelo, and sour gum trees of the Blue Ridge Mountains, or local and colorful camellia, dahlia, magnolia, or dogwood blossoms. Two of her water-color flower originals on 15 x 20 white boards sold for \$100 each for playing-card decorations. Her productions are considered excellent for wallpaper motifs.

Her natural feeling for design has led her to extend her creative interests to animals and landscapes. One of the latter was recently exhibited at the Atlanta Art Institute. It is her firm conviction that "anyone can paint who really wants to."

Move northward to Maine, and you will find an altruistic amateur artist in the small town of Fryeburg who uses his work to provide funds for local church activities. "Every summer," he says, "I hold an auction of all my paintings which I do not care to keep. Prices are moderate, and sometimes as many as a hundred pictures are sold." Then the



The artist who made this attractive oil painting took up the paintbrush only recently. While her husband looks at TV, she works beside him at her easel.

money is divided between two church societies to carry on their much-needed work.

This man believes that people who haven't the money to pay for a painting that they would like can obtain it at his auction and at the same time make a contribution to their church. He has received a satisfying response to his project.

"Painting has been a wonderful answer to that sort of lost feeling when your family has all married and are living away from you," declares an amateur in Norwalk, California. A housewife in her middle fifties, she is also "a very proud grandma" of four granddaughters and one grandson. Both her daughters are married to men in the airlines and live away from home. She and her husband own their own place, and he has been a member of the local board of education for over thirty years.

She says, "I have not yet sold a picture; so I am still very much an amateur. But," she adds, "maybe out of the rich experiences of my life I can leave behind a few interesting canvases." Through her painting she gets many new friends, delightful trips, and "a feeling of being young again."

In her picture *Americana*, she relives many of her childhood memories. Most of the characters are people or statues she remembers in the "ghost town" called Knott's Berry Farm. "To me," she explains, "the woman in black at the station is my mother... always going somewhere with long tickets. The little boy in white is my brother... crying for something he wanted." Of this oil painting, a friend exclaimed, "That's a rollicking thing!"

For one husband-and-wife team in Wellsburg, West Virginia, painting is a joint pleasure that often finds them "back road sketch-scouting" together. He paints on location, and she makes sketches to paint later at home. Her on-the-spot drawings are what she calls "scratches" to show her where she will put things when she gets back. She also makes notes about things she is going to include so she will "not forget what they're supposed to be," she says.

This art-loving couple live on the panhandle of West Virginia and have tri-state subjects to paint, with Pennsylvania on one side and Ohio just across the river.

When her husband presented her with a set of water colors for Christmas, this housewife never suspected that painting could be such fun. Her efforts were applauded by her two daughters, Navy son, and granddaughter who "like everything" she paints. Learning that she was a prize winner in the 1st National Amateur Art Festival Competition in 1953, with her watercolor of a southern shanty scene, she said: "I am just about the most excited and happy amateur artist alive."

Another husband-and-wife team who enjoy a mutual interest in painting live in Kansas City, Mis-

Photographs of paintings by Oliver Baker



Worries disappear for the widow and college registrar who painted this oil of foal and colts against the rolling hills of Charlottesville, Virginia.



For some people painting is the answer to that lost, forlorn feeling which often occurs when the children are grown and have moved away from home. The artist who painted this early American scene has found painting to be an ideal remedy.

souri. In this case the wife is simply an enthusiastic companion and observer, going wherever her husband finds subjects he wants to put on canvas. Her support is vital, however, even though she does not actively participate in his hobby.

This elderly gentleman, now approaching eighty and a retired business manager, says, "I just like to paint." His oils and watercolors number in the hundreds, and he specializes in biblical and landscape scenes. A stickler for accuracy, he does extensive research for every painting, even, for example, to the number of spokes in the wheel of a covered wagon. For him also the "right" frame is necessary for each picture. So he carves his own. The results are so pleasing that other people try to buy the frames, but he refuses to sell a single one, asking: "Who would cut off the corner of a painting and sell it?"

His oil of *Kansas Plains* hangs in the main dining room of the Noonday Club in Philadelphia, and he now has an assignment to do a mural painting for the auditorium of the local Nazarene church.

The amateur painter along the New England coast is sure to find an incentive to paint a sea scene. This is what happened to a Norwalk, Connecticut housewife who had time on her hands after her children were "mostly grown." To do a sailing scene in oil was a temptation.

Although this woman encouraged a natural artistic talent in her two daughters, she says, "I never touched a brush to a canvas until 1951, when my oldest girl went to Europe for a year." She claims she had indirectly picked up a little knowledge while watching her oldest daughter grow into a professional artist, and her younger girl, still in her teens, become accomplished in papier-mâché and china crafts.

Often in the evening, she carries her water-color or oil paints and easel into a living room to work on her

hobby, while her husband, a cattle dealer and farmer, is looking at television, and her daughter does her homework. She is convinced that no one need isolate himself to paint.

Last May, in recognition of Mother's Day month, she was invited to exhibit some of her paintings, together with her daughter's craft work, in the window of a local store. This made a successful appeal to the townspeople. She now says: "I paint for the sheer enjoyment of it." Her sea scene won an amateur competition award.

When a college registrar looks out her office window near Charlottesville, Virginia and is inspired by some of the romantic scenery about her, she reaches for her paint box. In her own words she says: "I keep a paint box in my office and paint the scenery about

(Continued on page 28)

A grandmother of Wellsburg, West Virginia, painted this prize-winning water color of a southern shanty scene.





The statue of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn at the foot of Cardiff Hill.

HANNIBAL BOYHOOD HOME

Photos and feature by erb



Marker where the home of Huckleberry Finn stood.



Home of Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens).

Becky Thatcher's home.



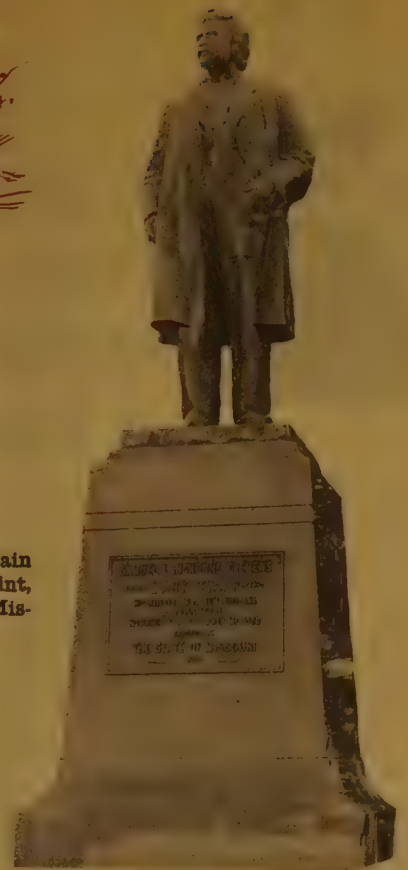
Aunt Polly's rose garden.



OF MARK TWAIN



Statue of Mark Twain
at Inspiration Point,
300 feet above the Mis-
sissippi Valley.



Law office of
Mark Twain's
father.

Hannibal, Missouri, known the world over as the boyhood home of Mark Twain (pseudonym of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, born Nov. 30, 1835) attracts thousands of visitors each year to see the many points of interest made famous by his writings.

Among the show places relating to Mark Twain is the famous cave in which Becky Thatcher and Tom Sawyer were lost. The cave was discovered the winter of 1819-20 by Jack Sims, a hunter, and was called Big Saltpeter Cave because a large quantity of saltpeter was manufactured from the bat guano in the cave, and used by the United States during the Mexican War.

Mark Twain's boyhood home is located at 206 Hill Street. It was built by his father, John Marshall Clemens, in 1844. In 1911 the old home was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. George A. Mahan and deeded to the city to be kept as a memorial and opened to the public. Inside are pictures and relics.

Next door to the home is the Mark Twain Museum which contains hundreds of priceless relics and historic items once the property of this famous writer.

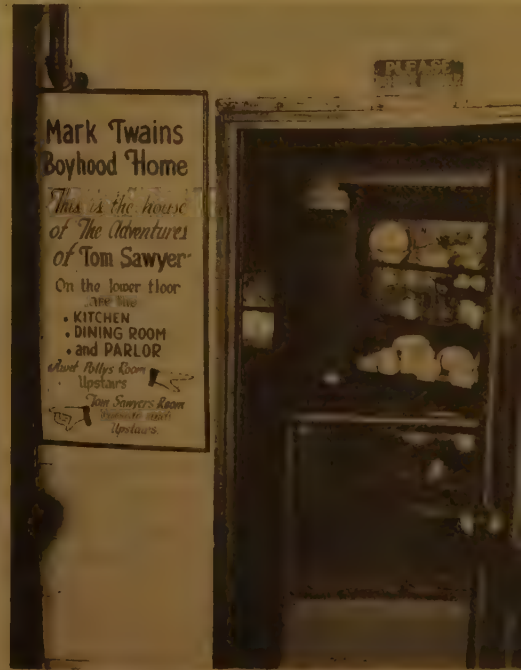
At the foot of Cardiff Hill in Hannibal is a statue of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. This was the first monument in the history of the world to be erected in memory of literary characters.

A few blocks from this setting is beautiful Riverview Park. Here, at "Inspiration Point" overlooking the Mississippi Valley, stands a monument of Mark Twain, erected by the State of Missouri in his memory.

Entrance to the cave in which Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher were lost.

The man-made entrance to the Mark Twain cave.

Side entrance to Mark Twain's boyhood home and the Mark Twain Museum.





Teresa Listens at Last

by Enola Chamberlin

Teresa was a good girl. She minded her mother. She studied her lessons. She didn't quarrel with her brothers and sisters. But she had one very bad fault. She simply didn't listen when people talked to her.

"Oh, dear, Teresa," her mother said to her one day. "I don't know what I'm going to do with you. I sent you to the store for a spool of red silk thread, and you have brought back bread and milk."

"Well," Teresa said, "thread and bread and silk and milk sound alike. I guess I just didn't hear right."

"I guess you just didn't listen," Mother said. "Now you will have to go to the store again."

Teresa was cheerful about going back, and she got the red silk thread that time.

When Mother had first noticed that Teresa was making mistakes, she took her to a doctor, thinking there might be something wrong with her ears. After many tests the doctor said, "She can hear all right. You will just have to teach her to listen."

So Mother had tried. She even held Teresa by the arm sometimes and made her repeat what had been said. Always Mother had to say the words over before Teresa could say them after her.

In school it was the same. Teresa studied the wrong lessons because she didn't listen to the teacher. She told things wrong because she only half heard them.

One day her mother said, "Listen to me closely, Teresa. When I am telling you about something nice for you, I am going to tell you once and only once. If you don't listen, you won't know about the something nice."

Everything went along all right for a while. Teresa missed out on going to town one day to meet Mother after school, but she didn't care about going to town anyhow. Then came the day of the trip to the zoo.

(Continued on page 31)



The Birds' January Christmas

by Helen Houston Boileau

Mr. and Mrs. Bird sat huddled together under the eaves of the house. They were very cold and very hungry. Everywhere there was snow covering the ground, and they could not find anything to eat.

Mr. Bird decided to fly down to the ground and try once more. Perhaps he could find one little kernel or berry for his Lady Bird.

Just as he was about to fly down, he heard children's voices. He waited, and soon he saw a boy and a girl come out of the house. They were dragging a little fir tree behind them. They laughed as they pulled the tree out into the yard and set it upright in the snow. It looked just as though it were really growing there.

The children ran back into the house, laughing and shouting. Soon they were back and hanging things from the branches of the trees. When they had finished, they ran back into the house.

When the children had not come back after ten minutes, Mr. Bird decided to fly down and investigate the little tree. He pecked his Lady Bird a husbandly kiss, and told her not to be discouraged. He would find something to eat.

Mr. Bird landed gracefully on a middle branch of the little tree, and what he saw nearly took his little bird breath away. There, hanging from the tree, were little pieces of suet, tiny dried apples, corn, nuts, and pieces of fruit peel. What a feast! Quickly, he pecked off several choice tidbits. Then he flew up to share them with his Lady Bird.

"We must fly around and tell our friends," said Lady Bird. She knew that all the birds were very hungry because of the snow, and she wanted to share this good fortune.

"Yes, indeed," agreed Mr. Bird. "We want them to enjoy this wonderful fortune with us."

In a very little while, the yard was full of birds, happily eating and chirping. When the tree was nearly empty, the children came out and hung more food on it.

(Continued on page 31)

Worship in the family_____with children

TO USE WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN

Snow

When Mary Lou woke up, she wondered if it was morning. A strange gray light filled the room. Then she heard Mother talking to Billy, the baby.

"Mommie," Mary Lou called.

Mother came to the door of the bedroom.

"Good morning," she said with a smile. "Get up and look out the window."

Mary Lou got up. She went to

the window. Everything was white as far as she could see!

"Snow!" she exclaimed happily. Everything was beautiful. All the ugly things were hidden. No marks broke the smooth beauty. "It looks like a new world," she said.

"Yes," Mother answered, "a new world to match a new year. This is New Year's Day."

After breakfast, Mary Lou

wanted to go out in the snow.

"It is too deep," Mother said. "It will go over the tops of your boots. We will all go out later."

Soon a car went by. It was chugging as though it were hard work. Next came two horses, working hard to pull the wagon through the deep snow. Then the newsboy came. Mary Lou saw him put a paper in the paper tube.

"Mother, can I get the paper? The sun is shining now."

"Wait until we all get on our coats and boots. Then we will go together," Mother said.

Outside it was cold. The sunshine on the snow made diamonds on every tree and bush.

"A new world," Mary Lou said softly.

"Yes," Mother agreed, "but still filled with God's love and care."

Theme for January

This New Year

A Word to Parents

The materials on this page and on the next two pages are for your use in moments of worship with your children. If you have a family worship service daily in your home, some of the materials here may be used at that time. If you use *The Secret Place*, you may find that some of them fit into the meditations in that booklet.



Don Knight

TO USE WITH OLDER CHILDREN

How a Song Was Made

A group of Primary children were discussing God's plans for the changing seasons in their church school class. During the discussion they repeated, over and over, a Bible verse:

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

—Genesis 8:22.

A boy said, "It sounds like a song, doesn't it?"

"Yes," the teacher answered. "Do you think we could sing it?"

"I'm sure we could," said another child.

Just then there sounded in the street below a three-toned automobile horn.

"Listen," Sammy said. In the sudden stillness of the classroom the horn sounded, a second, then a third time.

"That's a pretty sound," Sammy said. "Why couldn't we sing our verse and make it sound like that?"

The teacher went to the piano. "Listen and tell me when I make a sound like the horn made," she said. She sounded chord after chord until she found the one the children agreed sounded like the horn.

"Let's say the verse together," the teacher said, "and think how we can sing it to sound like this." She struck the chord softly again.

The children repeated the verse again. Then beginning on the highest note of the chord, the teacher sang the first phrase of the verse.

"Do you think that is the way to sing those words?" she asked.

"Yes," Sammy said, "that sounds like the horn.

How can we sing the rest of it?"

Almost immediately shy little Tommy sang, "Seed-time and harvest."

"How nice, Tommy!" he was praised. "That goes well with what I sang. Listen while I sing that much." Then the teacher sang the two phrases.

There was a silence. Then the group repeated the verse again. They talked about it. Then John sang "Cold and heat," and almost before the teacher could write down what he had sung, Marian had added, "Summer and winter."

The teacher sang what had been written down, then, so softly that she almost missed it, Mary sang, "Day and night." Immediately Peter, the newest boy in the class, added, "Shall not cease." The teacher supplied the notes for repeating this phrase.

"We can sing it," the children said happily. "We can sing it!"

"Yes," the teacher said, "we can sing about God's plan for the seasons, including the New Year." She bowed her head and prayed, "Thank you, dear God, for music, and for words that sound like songs. Thank you for helping us to think how to make a song. Amen."

* * *

The song these children made is at the bottom of this page. Sing it and see if you agree with them that it was a good song.

Do you ever read words that sound like music? Have you ever made a song? There are many verses in the Bible that have been made into songs. Read your favorite verse or verses to see if they sound like music. Perhaps you can make a song just as this group of children did.

While the Earth Remaineth

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the lyrics written below the notes. The first line of music covers the first two phrases of the verse, and the second line covers the last two phrases.

While the earth re - main - eth, Seed-time and har-vest, Cold and heat,

Sum-mer and winter, Day and night, Shall not cease, Shall not cease.

FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

To Think About

Look at the picture on this page. What can you see in it? You may wish to list everything this picture tells you. Then, if there is snow where you live, go outside and look at it. It, too, will tell you something. Perhaps your list will be something like this:

Dependability of God's plan for the seasons.

Orderliness of God's world; it snows in winter, not just any time.

God cares for all his little creatures such as birds and animals.

God cares for people and plans for their comfort and well-being.

God plans for vegetation.

—Lanka,
from Monkmeyer



Call to Worship:

Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,
or have you seen the storehouses of the hail?
From whose womb did the ice come forth,
and who has given birth to the hoarfrost of
heaven?
The waters become hard like stone,
and the face of the deep is frozen.

—Job 38:22, 29-30.

Meditation: About the New Year, and God's plan for the recurring seasons; about the New Year's being a new opportunity to try to live in the way that God wants us to live; about resolving to try harder to live as Christians should.

Hymn: Use a favorite song of any member of the family that has in it the elements stressed in the meditation, or use the one on the opposite page, or choose one of the following: "A Happy Day," primary pupil's book for the first year, winter quarter, page 35; "O Master of the Loving Heart," junior pupil's book for the first year, winter quarter.

Discussion: If you live where it snows in winter, talk about what the snow tells; or if there is no snow, look at the picture on this page and the one on page 19 and talk about what they tell.

Poem: Use one of the poems on this page.

Prayer: Dear God, we are glad for all your good plans for us and our welfare. We rejoice in the beauty of winter snows; we are grateful for the opportunity to start life fresh with each New Year. Help us during this year to try harder than we ever have before to live as we know you want us to live. Remind us when we grow weak; strengthen us when we fail, we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Litany for This New Year

For church bells ringing sweet and clear,
To welcome in the glad New Year,

We thank you, God our Father.

For messages from far and near
To wish us all a glad New Year,

We thank you, God our Father.

For families and friends so dear,
Who'll play with us in this New Year,

We thank you, God our Father.

For knowing you'll be always near
To care for us in this New Year,

We thank you, God our Father.

—Mazelle Wildes Thomas

Thanks for Snow

Thank you, God, for snow
That lies so white and still
Upon the furrows of the fields,
Upon each winter hill.

Thank you, God, for snow
That guards each sleeping thing—
The hibernating animals,
The seeds that wait for spring.


—Helen Howland Prommel¹

A Bible Verse

He gives snow like wool;
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

—Psalm 147:16

¹From *Juniors*, copyright, 1945, by the Judson Press. Used by permission.



Spiritual Care and Feeding of ADOLESCENTS

by Vera Channels

Study Article and Guide for Parents' Groups

In making a health survey among junior high teenagers, one school finds that only 7 out of 10 students eat breakfast every day; that only 8 out of 10 students eat lunch every day; that 89% have 1 to 6 bottles of pop in a week; and that 88% have 1 to 6 candy bars in a week. One of the conclusions of the study is that the majority are not eating for optimum health and efficiency.

A local church might make a spiritual survey among its teen-agers and find that only 7 out of 10 attend church regularly; that only 8 out of 10 go to church school or youth meetings; that 89% have not read the Bible at home in the past year; and that 88% have no form of personal devotions. One of their conclusions may be that the majority are not "eating" for optimum health and efficiency.

Just as habits of good eating need to be established during children's formative years, so do habits of spiritual seeking and solace.

Adolescents, in their new-found independence, sometimes develop dietary habits that result in physical malnutrition. Not so easy to witness, but far more significant, is the new-found independence in thinking and feeling and acting characteristic of

the adolescent. It is hard to determine on what day or in what way a teen-ager begins to doubt his parents' word and to do a little thinking on his own. Parents may not be aware of the subtle but urgent changes in the feelings of their offspring. Even a variation in ways of acting may escape their attention for a time.

But if a young person begins to sleep late on Sunday mornings, to grumble when he's asked to serve on a church committee, and to make uncomplimentary remarks about his leaders at church, parents begin to appraise this "different" person in their midst. They begin to wonder if these youth are pushing aside the life-giving substance of their environment in favor of the fluff of a lemon pie.

Wise parents, schooled in Christian living, will not limit the freedom of their adolescents to choose for themselves. Instead they will devise ways to help their young people to develop consciously their own mature religious faith and freedom. There are some general ways to do this and some specific ones, too.

Parents are getting very tired of being told to set a good example. It's a nuisance, too, to have the responsibility. There's no escaping the fact,

however, that children who are reared in love and understanding do become secure and well-adjusted, mature to the point where they can love others, and responsible enough to want to help their brothers.

Creating a home atmosphere which is conducive to spiritual growth helps, too. In a home where there are music and good books and friends of all kinds and good conversation, where there is an atmosphere of free expression and easy flexibility, where the concern is more for widening the circle than for closing it in, and for seeking God's guidance in all things, here is the spot where young people will want to absorb the resources for their lives. As they breathe in the love and the faith and the creative possibilities, they will want to give out the best of themselves to others.

There are many areas of concern about teen-agers which weigh heavily upon their conscientious parents. Chief among these is a choice of companions. Young people choose friends who meet their needs but don't necessarily meet the approval of their parents. Because of the tremendous drive among young people to be like everyone else, to immerse themselves in the group, to "belong" in a very significant way, choice of companions is important. This desire to be a member of a group apart from their family helps young people define themselves as individuals—as real people.

Parents, of course, can't choose companions for their teen-agers. Criticism isn't very good either; but parents don't have to sit back and do nothing. Many a mother has "slain" an undesirable young suitor simply by inviting him in along with the crowd and letting her daughter see how inferior he really is when compared with the rest. A very subtle suggestion may start a cell to working which will result in some real thinking and judging on the part of the young person himself.

On the positive side, hold open house for the teen-agers; learn to be a "floating chaperone" who comes in just often enough to know what is going on but too seldom to be a nuisance; take your teen-ager's friends on family excursions occasionally; and when you talk to them, be really interested. Be willing to encourage new, desirable friendships by inviting an acquaintance in for a meal or by using a free evening driving back and forth to help young people get together.

Moral standards among teen-agers are always a source of much speculation and comment among adults. A good memory is a help to parents in judging the moral standards of the young people in their homes today. Most parents, with a bit of searching, can remember at least that their adolescent friends made mistakes and will have to admit that most of them grew up to be respected citizens.

In any generation the morally degenerate are products of spiritually degenerate homes. The best way to help young people develop high moral standards is to create a home atmosphere of love and understanding and loyalty.

Young people never seem to have the kind of daily

schedules that their parents would wish for them. They are either too busy or not busy enough. A good approach for parents is to recognize at the outset that individuals differ. Some can rush from early morning until late at night and feel no ill effects. Others need to loll around and "rest up so they won't get tired." If the young people in your household show signs of going to the extreme one way or the other, adjust your schedule to meet their needs; give them opportunities to choose more or less activity; give them a hand with their work or give them more work; and give them a chance to grow and dream like all adolescents should.

Someone has said, "An adolescent would rather die than admit he likes to work," and most parents would agree. Household responsibilities cause friction between teen-agers and their parents. The ideal is for the family to build up through the years a

It is natural for teen-agers to rebel at religion and question some of the creeds of the church, for adolescence is a period of transition. Nevertheless, parents should make every effort to see that their young people attend church regularly.

—H. Armstrong Roberts



co-operative feeling and concern for the ongoing of the entire family with each one having a significant part. Adolescents develop so rapidly that parents sometimes fail to appreciate their abilities.

Giving a choice of work to do often lends a more pleasant aspect to tasks to be done. Respect the preferences of your teen-agers. Not all adolescents have to wash dishes every day to justify their existence and to make their contribution to the welfare of the family.

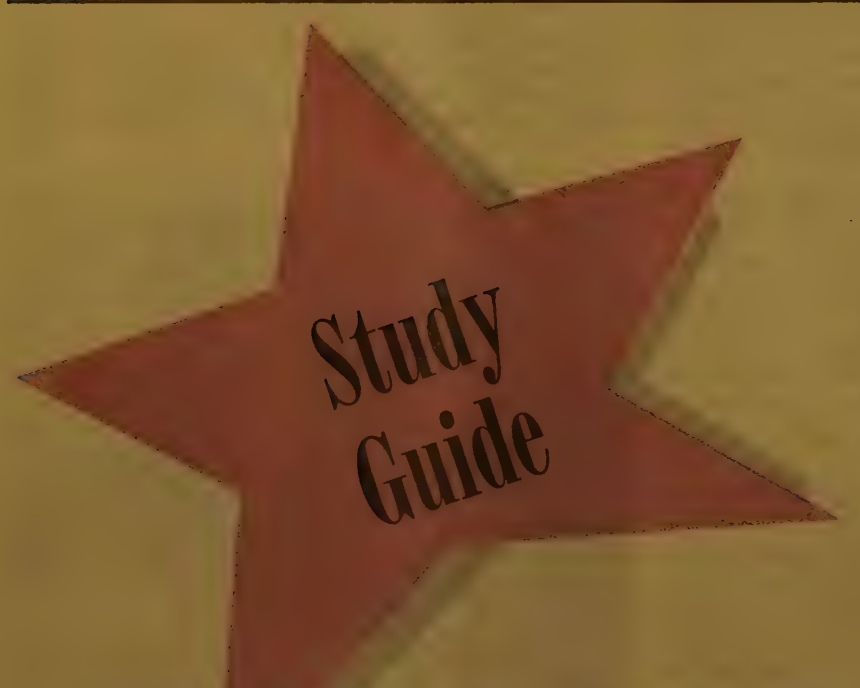
"Money, money, money," demands the adolescent with palm extended to Father, and Father groans and reaches for his billfold. A mature, efficient, and businesslike technique for the handling of money can be learned best by having money to experiment with. Teen-agers shouldn't have to beg for money or get it too easily. If they have an allowance to spend as they wish, they will learn more in one week than they could in a year of lecturing.

Realizing that resistance to church is only a symp-

tom and not the real issue, would help many parents meet the inevitable independence of adolescents more calmly. Many a young person reared in the church has rejected it during his teens, only to return with greater faith, stronger convictions, and renewed loyalty when he has matured a little. What goes on in his mind during this time may be the searching and sorting and finding which is essential to a truly personal and vital religious faith.

Let us, nevertheless, try to keep them in church! Let us provide leaders of strong Christian character, vital materials to stimulate their thinking and give them ideas for worthy service, and let us give them a taste of what true Christian fellowship is by inviting church friends into our homes and going with them to church affairs.

The spiritual care and feeding of adolescents requires unlimited time and patience and love. What better use could you make of your time and your patience and your love?



Study Guide

Spiritual Care and Feeding of Adolescents

I. Preparation for the Meeting

1. Your Aim: to help parents of adolescents understand and appreciate the task of leading their young people to a significant spiritual life.

2. Read the article and the scriptures suggested for the worship service.

3. Read suggested bibliography and choose several references to assign to others. Ask them to read these in preparation for the meeting.

4. Arrange for a worship service. Scripture passages which may be used include 1 Corinthians 13 or Matthew 5:3-20.

a. Ask one couple to plan a worship service for the group.

b. Make arrangements for the worship service well in advance of the

meeting. Have a rehearsal, if necessary.

II. The Meeting

1. Several methods would be suitable to present this material to your study group. You may want to choose one of the following:

a. Have a double panel discussion with four teen-agers and four adults seated at separate tables. Let the teen-agers ask questions of the adults, and let the adults ask questions of the teen-agers. Have a moderator to keep the discussion moving and to ask for participation from the audience. Ask your panel members to read the article as a basis for their thinking.

b. Assign one of the following topics to each of seven people. Ask them to read the article, noticing particularly

the part dealing with their subject, and be prepared to discuss it for three minutes.

1. introduction
2. companions
3. moral standards
4. daily schedules
5. household responsibilities
6. finances
7. church and school loyalties.

Following this, have a general discussion by the group, led by a competent person.

III. Discussion Questions

1. What percentage of youth in your church are active and interested?
2. How many of them have parental

backing, and how many come "on their own"?

3. How can the church program be made to appeal to youth so that they will attend its activities and choose their companions among Christian people?

4. How do moral standards of youth today differ from those of any other age? Why?

5. How can parents help their youth plan the use of their time wisely?

6. What responsibilities should young people assume in the home?

7. What attitude should parents take toward finances for their children?

8. How can parents keep their children loyal to the church?

9. Why is it so important to young people to be accepted by their age group?

10. What happens to parents whose young people are growing up? How can they meet this situation creatively?

11. How can parents keep their adolescents confiding in them?

IV. Resources

1. *Do Adolescents Need Parents?* by Katherine Whiteside Taylor. New York, D. Appleton Century.

2. *A Girl Grows Up*, by Ruth Feder.

3. *Personal Problems of Everyday Life*, by Lee Travis and Dorothy Baruch. New York, D. Appleton Century, Chapter VIII.

4. *Doorway to a Happy Home*, by Mrs. Clarence H. Hamilton. New York, Bobbs-Merrill, Inc., 1950. Chapter V.

5. *Our Children and God*, by Mrs. Clarence H. Hamilton. New York, Bobbs-Merrill, Inc., 1952.

6. *Let's Talk About You*, by Mrs. Marguerite Harmon Bro. Doubleday Doran.

BIBLEGRAM

by Hilda E. Allen

Guess the words defined below and write them over their numbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspondingly numbered square in the pattern. The colored squares indicate word endings.

Reading from left to right, you will find that the filled pattern will contain a selected quotation from the Bible.

A One twelfth of a pound --	31 100 146 108 126
B Jacob's son -----	119 115 51 27 133
C Not level -----	48 65 24 15 32 84
D Pink coloring for the face	137 47 120 52 103
E City -----	141 34 101 21 138
F Travel from one place to another -----	49 7 22 63 28 3 10
G Twenty and half a century	23 44 135 5 17 132 46
H Sufficient -----	118 71 18 50 147 13
I Eighteen hundred seconds	2 39 104 6 30 37 81 4
J Appeared -----	68 19 78 87 41 94
K To eat greedily. Also, a ravine -----	72 62 35 131 95
L Any traveled track -----	66 14 80 58 42 54 36
M Man who was swallowed by a whale -----	73 83 55 124 111
N Irritable or peevish -----	116 25 12 91 43 113
O A spirit -----	122 85 56 111 143
P Night light in the sky ---	96 128 114 130
Q A program given for charity -----	106 16 79 9 61 70 1

R Several things mixed together -----	77 64 20 57 74 8 59
S The judge on the baseball diamond -----	90 26 82 86 40 136
T Part of a glove -----	105 145 45 76 53 60
U Group of people joined together for some benefit ---	110 93 129 89 97
V To stir up or waken to action -----	67 125 11 38 69 142
W To avoid or shun someone or something -----	134 33 140 127 107
X Gaudy -----	102 117 99 29 88
Y Whirlpool -----	112 75 121 98
Z Where camels find water -	92 109 139 123 148

(Solution on page 28)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11
12			13	14	15	16		17	18		19	20 21
22	23	24		25		26	27	28		29	30	31
32	33	34	35		36	37	38		39	40	41	
42	43	44	45		46	47	48		49	50	51	52
53		54	55	56	57	58	59	60		61	62	63
	64	65		66	67	68	69	70	71	72		73
74	75	76	77	78	79	80		81	82	83	84	
85	86	87		88	89	90		91	92	93	94	95
96	97		98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105		106
107	108	109	110	111	112		113	114	115		116	117
118		119	120	121	122	123		124	125	126		127
128	129	130	131		132	133	134		135	136	137	138
	139	140	141	142		143	144	145	146	147	148	

This Lent, Launch

At our family council meeting about three weeks before Lent, we set out to plan a family worship experience. It's difficult to remember the moment that the idea was born. But suddenly grace at mealtime, daily devotional reading, those precious bedtime moments with each of our children just weren't enough. Our family needed a worship experience together.

We had shunned such a time because of age difference. Ten years between the oldest and the youngest child makes it difficult to find a common ground on which to worship. As parents, nevertheless, we were determined to find a way that would bring us not only the joy of spiritual refreshment but also the opportunity to bring creativity into our religious life. What better time was there to attempt this than the forty days leading up to Easter?

We knew that this time for worship had to be a part of our routine of life. It would be centered around us all—our problems, our dreams, our doubts. Each one would have a part in the planning and the undertaking. We would search with our children to learn some of the incomparable riches of the spirit which should be a part of every home.

You, too, can have a family worship experience as enriching as ours. If your family has never found time to worship together, setting out to do so will be something you'll never forget. Like us, you'll find it will develop into a permanent part of your life.

You must find a time when you can all be together. Perhaps it will be at mealtime, but it can be any time when you are together as

a family. If that is only once a week, then make your worship a weekly one. The important thing is, do it together.

Let each person have a job to do. Rotate these tasks so that the planning and the doing are neither slipshod nor boring. Where there is need of assistance, make the child feel that you are ready to help him do things his way. Don't inflict your ideas upon him. There is so much need for individual expression within the family with a moderate amount of guidance. Let each one benefit from another's ideas.

Even the youngest child can help. He can sing a song or share a story that he has learned in church school. He can recite his memory verse. With someone older, he can join in creating a worship center.

Always have a worship center. It need not be elaborate. You can place it either on the dining table or in a special corner of the living room. Make it meaningful, building your worship experience around it. A lovely plant will show God's splendor in growing things. A beautiful picture, an open Bible, a flickering candle, a flag, a loaf of bread; each has its secret. Put your creativity to work and let your worship center reflect your chosen theme.

Let's think about a loaf of bread. It can be the springboard for your teen-ager to build a service around sharing. He is probably familiar with the "Share our Surplus" program of Church World Service from his youth group. He will lead you into discovering Christ where there is need. For there is constant demand for good used clothing and for food. Do you

know that \$1 will provide daily bread for each of five needy people for more than two months? That it will give cheese for a week to more than 200 protein-deficient persons in Europe or Asia, or rations of rice to 70 hungry children?

Perhaps your eight-year-old will suggest: "Let's take an offering and send some bread to hungry boys and girls." Or your high school daughter may ask: "Mother, how much would we save if we went without dessert on Sundays?" They will be led to understand that sacrificial giving is a "thank you" to God for his bountiful gifts to them. They'll truly discover the inner joy of finding Christ where there is want.

One of the most difficult things to understand is how religion integrates a home. Too many times it is worn as a cloak on Sunday and then removed when the family steps into its everyday world. You can learn to wear it all week long, if you practice family worship.

It helps with family problems. We all have them. How much should teen-agers date? How about their choice of friends? Do parents always understand children's needs? Do they spend too much time away from home? Will children accept decisions willingly? What about honesty and fairness and brotherly love? The questions are endless. Search them out as a family in the light of God's word.

Make a study of family situations in Jesus' day. Have you ever wondered about the mother who gave her boy those loaves and fishes letting him, perhaps unwillingly, go off to follow a strange teacher? Have you ever thought

family Worship

about the children who must have been playing near the inn the night that Christ was born? How did the children feel who were brought to Jesus when he said: "Let the little ones come. . . ." Did his love touch their tiny hearts as he talked slowly and softly to them? Here is an opportunity to make these stories come alive for the young lives that you are nurturing. Awaken their curiosity to search out such stories and create their own impressions.

Try writing a devotional piece or two arising out of a family experience. We did that one year and ended up writing a family Lenten devotional booklet for the use of our church members. You say you can't recognize those precious lessons? One night our four-year-old's kitten didn't return after his evening walk. We dreaded telling Ann; but when we finally did, she looked up with sparkling eyes and said: "I'm not worried. God will take care of my Fluffy." How better can you teach simple faith?

There are many ways to create worship with other forms of art. If you have a record player, use some of the old hymns or simple classical music that children enjoy. Share with them the stories of composers and let them discover God's message in both words and music. Sing together regularly. It's a joyful experience. Choose old hymns that you know well and discover the spiritual freshness of new ones.

If your church has an audio-visual library, borrow filmstrips or slides of famous religious paintings like Giotto's "Life of Christ." Then there is a family worship series: "Happy Times at Home,"

"Friends Who Help Us," or "How God Takes Care of Us." If you have slides of your own, rediscover God in a favorite vacation spot.

Make prayer an important experience. Every family needs to learn the joy of quietness with God. We live in such a hustling, bustling age that too often being quiet is a thing lost or overlooked. Please don't pray just grown-up prayers. Let your little ones learn to talk spontaneously with their loving Father. How wonderful to feel that God is so understanding that even childish fancies need his attention. We knew such joy one

night as our first grader intoned: "Thank you, God, for Mummy's love and Daddy's laugh and my soft bed 'cause I'm so tired."

You will all capture the secret of prayer in discovering the stillness which surrounds you. It will change your pattern of life. A family will learn to make a quiet time to find God no matter how busy a day may be. It will become a light in the wilderness, a preparation for life, which you are unconsciously putting into young lives.

Yes, family worship can become a necessary experience once you discover it. There are messages from God all around you: In the tiny seeds you may plant in an indoor window box; in the lovely smile of a friend; in a problem faced and solved together. God speaks in many terms that a family can understand. His message is very real when you worship together. He is waiting for you to sit quietly and let him enter your busy lives. Tap this everlasting love that is waiting to enrich your home life as you launch a family worship experience together.

Singing hymns around the piano is often a good way to begin a family worship service.

—Religious News Service Photo



● Just an Old Friend

(Continued from page 7)

"An old boy friend," Bert said.
 "And isn't Lisa an old girl friend?"

Bert felt the perspiration cling to him like a hot, damp towel. She was right. One hundred per cent. There was no getting around it, no glossing over the facts. He had had lunch with a woman—an old girl friend. Of course, she didn't mean a thing to him any more. But that wasn't the point, he had to admit. Today, Emilie had had lunch with an old boy friend—who didn't mean a thing to her any more, either. There was no difference in the two situations. No difference at all.

"Honey," Bert said contritely, "you're right about everything. I guess I've been acting like a chump all along, thinking that my having lunch with a former girl friend is any different from your having lunch with a former boy friend." He drew Emilie to him tenderly. "Can you forgive a crazy mixed-up guy?"

The mocking laughter was gone from Emilie's eyes, and in its place was only love and tenderness.

"Of course, darling," she said softly.

"Maybe," she thought to herself, as she lay in bed looking out of the window at the star-studded night, "when we're old, and our children are gone, and we're reliving memories, I'll tell Bert that Frank Brady wasn't in town today. In fact, I haven't heard from him since college days." She chuckled to herself. "But maybe I'll just keep it a secret. Maybe I'll never tell him that I went to a movie this afternoon—all by myself."

● American Amateur Artists

(Continued from page 15)

me in my spare moments"—a fine way to mix work and pleasure. Her oil colts against a background of magnificent stables and green rolling hills earned national recognition in an amateur artist contest.

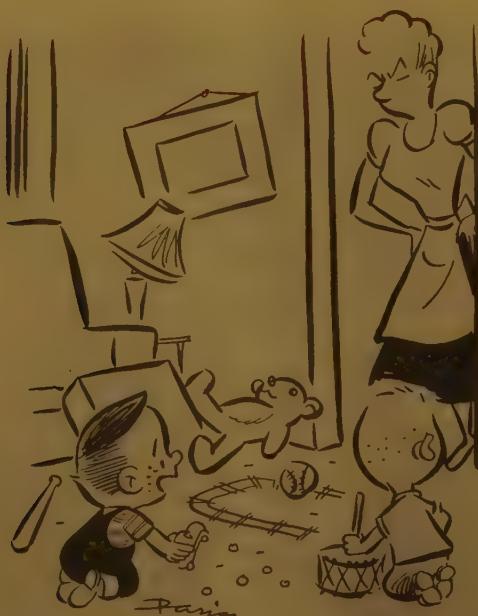
A widow, in what she calls "that middle-age group past thirty-five and under fifty, when a woman prefers to be as young as she looks and hopes that that is younger than she really is," studied charcoal drawing in high school and always liked to paint. She affirms, "Aside from small things like my own Christmas cards, block prints, etc., I never took art seriously." She declares it was really the scenic beauty of Charlottesville, to which she came after living in Richmond and in Pennsylvania, together with the Blue Ridge Mountains, that enlivened her natural interest in painting.

She swears she can forget most of the "heartaches and worries" she ever knew when she is "trying to achieve an effect or mix the right color." Painting, for her, is a very absorbing hobby. As in everything else, she declares, "There is always something one wishes to accomplish." Meanwhile, she affirms, "I just love to paint!"

Give

Hearthstone

As a Gift



"I bet you'll be glad when the repairman brings our television set back, Mom."

● How to Get to Church School on Time

(Continued from page 12)

morning. Even the smallest boy has his own chores. With all the family co-operating to be dressed and ready to leave the house at the same time, there is less chance of being late than when the mother tries to do most of the work herself.

Another mother said that she gets ready for Sunday on Saturday. This brings to mind the story that Mrs. Elton Trueblood tells in *The Recovery of Family Life*. A Japanese Christian mother of ten daughters was asked how she managed to have them clean and starched and pretty every single Sunday. She answered, "I start getting ready on Thursday."

American mothers with their mechanical helpers need not start on Thursday. But Saturday is not too early! On that day, ruffles are ironed if need be, curls are set, lost buttons are found and sewed, shoes are polished, and the offering is tucked into a little boy's pocket or a little girl's purse.

A father gave some practical advice which the other fathers liked. "Leave the Sunday papers until after church, and put gas in the car on Saturday." He was speaking from experience.

A woman with a reputation as a clever and popular cook said, "I do less cooking for Sunday dinner than for any other day in the week. I used to get up at Sunday dawn, cook several dishes, rush late to church, fret during the service, and hurry home to finish cooking."

(Continued on page 31)

Biblegram Solution

(Biblegram on page 25)

SOLUTION: "Therefore you have no excuse, O man, whoever you are, when you judge another, for in passing judgment upon him you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things." (Romans 2: 1)

The Words

A Ounce	N Touchy
B Judah	O Ghost
C Uneven	P Moon
D Rouge	Q Benefit
E Mercy	R Mixture
F Journey	S Umpire
G Seventy	T Finger
H Enough	U Union
I Halfhour	V Arouse
J Seemed	W Evade
K Gorge	X Showy
L Pathway	Y Eddy
M Jonah	Z Oases



Family Counselor

PERHAPS it is not a problem for some parents but it's gotten to be one in our home as we wonder if it is right or wrong for a good Christian boy of nineteen and our girl who will be sixteen in another month to be left at home occasionally alone for a few hours, watching their favorite TV program, listening to the radio, or working on school homework. My husband says, "No, it should not be."

They have gone together many times in the past several months to church youth meetings and parties, on double dates, an evening at home with us, and by themselves to good shows, and we trust them in that way. Are we trying to watch and guide her too closely or must we have more faith and confidence in her so that she feels "we trust her" and ask God to be with them at all times since we cannot?

IT IS more or less expected that an adult shall be present when girls entertain their boy friends in their homes, not in the same room with the young people, to be sure, but at least somewhere about the house. In fact, it usually is wise to have adults available in the home even when there is a comparatively large party, where many young people are present. Again, the adults should not constantly be in evidence, and probably will be appreciated most if they remain inconspicuous or help in the kitchen!

I would suggest, therefore, that you or your husband plan to be present somewhere about the house when your daughter's boy friend visits her. You will go about your own activities and let the young people be by themselves, of course. Furthermore, if you want to go to a neighbor's for a few minutes during the evening, there is no reason why you should not do so; in fact, you may be coming and going in the home several times during the evening. It would seem to me that unless special factors arise, this situation is not one that pertains to whether or not you trust your daughter, but rather is one that calls for good taste and wise judgment.

IN OUR church there is a feeling that ministers' wives should not teach school. I agree that a conscientious minister's wife would have little time to teach school full time. However, why would it be wrong for her to substitute teach when it did not interfere with church activities?

I have substituted for a few days this year. My family and the congregation seem proud that I can and will do it. The teachers at the school are lovely to me and I have felt a closer bond between myself, the children, the teachers, and superintendents, and likewise the school board members. And the money I have earned has helped with our boy in college. Sometime I wish you and your staff would tell us what you think about this matter.

ISUPPOSE there are those who feel that a woman has a full-time job in taking care of her family and in helping her husband with the work of the church. It is true, as you have doubtless found out, that being a minister's wife is almost a profession in itself. Consequently one should guard against taking a position that will keep her from helping her husband in the work of the church. It should be assumed, furthermore, that she will not let her work interfere with her obligations to her children. In other words, it probably is true that in most situations, especially when young children are in the home, the wife of a minister should not take on a full-time job outside the home and the church.

Your situation, however, would seem to be entirely different. Your children no longer are young. With a son in college you are having heavy expense. You have an opportunity, not only to be of service to the community by substitute teaching, but also to have a creative experience that is personally enriching and satisfying. Both your family and the members of the congregation approve. Not only, therefore, would there seem to be no reason why you should not continue to serve as a substitute teacher, but there are positive reasons why you should do so.

Daniel M. Maynard



for the hearthside

For Children

Boys and girls who are interested in nature study will find *Crickets*, by Olive L. Earle, a fascinating book (Morrow Junior Books, 1956, unpagged, \$2.00). Since Miss Earle is a naturalist, she writes with scientific accuracy, but in language simple enough for children to understand. In *Crickets*, she explains their development, their anatomy, how they make their music, what they eat, and where they live. She also explains how to keep a cricket as a pet.

The beautiful black-and-white drawings are by the author, who is an artist as well as a naturalist, and the illustrations add greatly to the value of the book. The author has the happy ability to transmit her own warm interest in her subject to her readers, and boys and girls fortunate enough to discover this book will be introduced to a host of interesting, and vocal, friends.

* * *

Jerrold Beim's latest book for beginning readers is *Too Many Sisters* (Morrow Junior Books, 1956, unpagged, \$2.00), and like many of his former books, it deals with a practical situation faced by many children. In this case, Mike found that four sisters placed demands upon him and obstacles before him that were almost more than he could endure. When he and his friends built a clubhouse, they determined to keep all girls out. When they were faced with a crisis, however, Mike's sisters saved the day.

Dick Dodge's illustrations are charming, and the end papers are a good introduction to the book.

* * * *

Children who live, or have lived, in crowded apartments will enjoy *A Room for Cathy*, by Catherine Woolley (Morrow Junior Books, 1956, 191 pages, \$2.50). In it, Miss Woolley has caught the keen desire and the deep need of every child for privacy to think his own

thoughts, to keep his own possessions, to house his own treasures.

When the family moved into an old house in the country, Cathy was overjoyed; but financial problems made it necessary for the family to rent apartments. So Cathy had to give up her room. How this disappointment changed to satisfaction and pleasure creates the kind of suspense that children enjoy.

Veronica West's illustrations add to the reality and pleasure of this book.

For Youth

Girl in a Hurry, by Viola Rowe (Longmans, Green and Co., Inc. 180 pages. Price, \$2.75).

Missy, short for Melissa, Richardson has a problem. Her mother still thinks that she is a child and won't let her get a summer job when her two best friends get one. Then Missy, unbeknownst to her mother, does get a job selling pictures; but it turns out that this is a crooked business. She gets into all kinds of difficulties.

Missy tries another business venture which is highly approved of but not very lucrative. Through this, however, she shows her mother that she is reliable and dependable.

Teen-age girls will find that Missy is a lot like themselves—a little mixed up about some things, but always willing to try again.

* * *

First Love, True Love, by Anne Emery (The Westminster Press, 189 pages. Price, \$2.75).

Pat Marlowe's mother is a well-known writer; her brother Mike is a star football player at Allendale High; but Pat is a nobody—or so she thinks. Her only talent is her friendliness and her desire to do things for people. Often, however, she unwittingly courts trouble in her attempts to be helpful.

With the beginning of her junior year in high school, Pat has problems. The

boy whom she dated during her sophomore year is away at college, and another endearing lad, Tim Davis, enters the picture. Then, Pat has tried fruitlessly to get her brother interested in her best girl friend; but Brother falls for a little brunette gold digger instead.

Tim gets serious much too soon to suit Pat; but as time goes by, she realizes that she feels the same way about him. They date steadily throughout the school year, and during that time Pat becomes a wiser, more mature girl.

Excellent reading for teen-age girls.

* * *

For Adults

While divorces have decreased in recent years, the amount of marital discord is still disturbing. A book for husbands and wives of all ages to read is *Marriage Is for Two*, by Frances Bruce Strain (Longmans, Green and Co., 1955. 250 pages, \$3.50). There are two basic themes in this book. One points out the effect of childhood situations on marriage. The other takes note of the effect of working women on marriage.

The twelve chapters of this book deal with changing styles in marriage; growth of the sexual life; dating; courtship; engagement; honeymoon and homecoming; finances; parenthood; family relationships. Mrs. Strain's view is that in the long run the economic independence of women will work out for good in the marriage relationship. The author is known for her books in this field as a pioneer in sex education and marriage courses. She is a member of the American Association of Marriage Counselors.

* * * *

In these troubled times of racial integration an insight into the thinking and

(Continued on page 31)

● Family Life Around the World

(Continued from page 1)

criminal conduct by American servicemen in Germany, according to *Bonifasiusbote*, official organ of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fulda. Noting that a series of assaults, robberies, rapes, and even murders by members of U. S. troops have aroused widespread resentment, the paper said these acts of violence are caused as much by conditions for which Germans are to blame as they are by poor discipline of the Americans.

The paper pointed out that, although the Army has set up ample recreational facilities, the young soldiers look upon these things as mere continuations of barracks life, intended to prevent or divert their desire to see and become acquainted with a foreign country and its people.

"But what waits them outside the barracks?" asked the paper. "Since 1945 we have let loose upon them the scum of our land—legions of prostitutes, procurers, and others who lure inexperienced young men into the claws of a criminal entertainment industry which fattens on the passions of its victims.

"It should be the concern of the whole German people that these terrifying conditions be abolished."

● Teresa Listens at Last

(Continued from page 18)

The teacher had sent word home to the parents asking if the children could go to the zoo on Thursday afternoon. All who would not go were to be let out of school early.

On Thursday morning Teresa's mother said, "You can go to the zoo this afternoon, Teresa."

Teresa didn't say anything; so Mother was sure that she was not listening because there was nothing Teresa liked better than to go to the zoo.

So that afternoon when Teresa came home early, Mother said, "Didn't you want to go to the zoo, Teresa?"

The word "zoo" caught Teresa's ears. "What zoo?" she asked.

When Mother explained, Teresa sat right down and cried. It was too late by then, but how she wanted to go to the zoo!

Mother took her into her arms. "I'm sorry, Teresa," she said, "but I can't make you listen if you won't try."

"I'll try from now on," Teresa said. "I don't want to miss any more trips."

She did try, and soon she was hearing just as well as anyone else.

● The Birds' January Christmas

(Continued from page 18)

"You see," said Lady Bird, "there is plenty for us all when we share."

It is hard to tell who was happier, Mr. and Mrs. Bird and their friends, or the children who were watching from the window of the house.

"This is the nicest possible way to make Christmas last into January," said the little boy.

"Let's always decorate our tree for the birds after Christmas," said his sister.

Their mother was watching with them. She spoke up and suggested, "Why not keep food out for the birds all winter and not just after Christmas?"

"Oh, yes," the children agreed. "That's the best idea of all!"

● How to Get to Church School on Time

(Continued from page 28)

Not any more. I put going to church first and cooking second. And what a difference!" Her family and friends agreed that she was easier to live with!

A young mother said, "On Saturday night I select everything that I'm going to wear Sunday and hang it in one place in my room. I shut my closet door and dare myself to change my mind in the morning!"

It was easy to see that each family and each member of the family had its own secrets of getting to church school early. Some methods were tempting, some were laughable, but all had the stamp of success.

There was one basic agreement, however: "Make up your mind and your

family's mind that you'll get there on time this -Sunday and every Sunday. Then do it."

How do you get to church school on time?

● Books for the Hearthside

(Continued from page 30)

experiences of the minority groups is valuable for all of us. *I Passed for White*, by Reba Lee, as told to Mary Hastings Bradley (Longmans, Green and Co., 1955, 274 pages, \$3.85) is a book full of such insights. It is the true story of how one young Negro girl tried to "pass" as white; why she did it and how she fared. Although it is never stated in so many words, the reader senses that most Negroes who are interested in "passing" are prompted more by a desire to escape the stigma of restriction and second-class citizenship than by any feeling that they are inferior. Most unprejudiced members of the dominant group recognize that they are essentially no better, they only *have* it better than the colored minority. For a better understanding of what it means to be "black" in a "white" world, read this book.

* * *

Charles F. Palmer, a businessman who became interested in better housing, has written a stimulating discussion of slum elimination in his *Adventures of a Slum Fighter* (Tupper and Love, Inc., Atlanta, 1955. 272 pages, \$4). Looking every day at one area of slums in Atlanta, the author was finally aroused to try to do something about such areas. This book recounts the exciting story of his long struggle against much opposition to develop the first public housing program in the country. A reading of this book will give better understanding of the problem and the importance of proceeding more rapidly in solving it.

Grand Idea



Grandchildren are for frolicking,
When they are clean and sweet,
For spoiling a little bit
With every kind of treat;

But when they're dirty, tired or cross
And start their childish sinning,
Grandparents then can hand them back
For parents' disciplining!

—Ina S. Stovall

Over the back fence

● The Ceaseless Round

So we begin another in the "ceaseless round of the years." As far as we here at *Hearthstone* offices are concerned, we do not enter 1957 in any spirit of defeat or pessimism.

Certainly there is enough in the world scene to lead to a sense of foreboding. International stresses are still with us and will be for many years to come. Much cause for concern can be seen within the borders of our own land. Even that area of human relationships which is *Hearthstone's* chief interest, the family, could not be said to be free from dire prospects. God is in his heaven, but all is not necessarily right in the world.

At least one reason for a sense of optimism is to be found in an item which appears on page one of this issue. Two sociologists, after a close study of family life in America, come up with a strengthened belief in the essential soundness of the home. With all its faults and failures, there is at the core of the American family something that gives ground for hope for the future.

Hearthstone is dedicated to the proposition that the "wave of the future" is to be found in the home; more specifically in the Christian home. In spite of all the drastic changes in social structures that the past few years have brought, there seems little reason to think that the home is any less important now than it has always been.

So we enter 1957, confident that helping to develop Christian homes is our supremely important task.

● Where Have I Heard That Before?

"I see no hope for the future of our people if they are to be dependent upon the frivolous youth of today, for certainly all youth are reckless beyond words. . . . When I was a boy, we were taught to be discreet and respectful of our elders, but the present youth are exceedingly wise and impatient of restraint."

Does that have a familiar sound to you? Have you heard someone express himself in almost those exact words recently? Or perhaps, have you spoken something of the same refrain yourself?

You will be interested to know that the words of the quotation which begins this section were written by Hesiod, the Greek poet, who lived about 776 B.C. Something like this complaint has been echoed by every generation of adults before and since.

Need we say that those are not the sentiments of this publication.

Taking everything into consideration, young people today are not only bigger and taller physically than a generation ago; they possess greater possibilities than any preceding generation.

It is for all of us "oldsters" to remember that they, the "youngsters," will become pretty much what we help them to become.

● To Whom the Office?

As this was written shortly after the close of the nominating conventions held in August, the man who will be inaugurated as President of the United States January 20 had not yet been decided by the American people.

It is difficult to be envious of the man who has been chosen for that high office. He will enter upon four years of extremely trying responsibilities. He will need to make decisions whose consequences will be for good or evil to the nation and the world. He will be under tremendous pressure from all sides.

Therefore it is fitting that the people of this nation frequently pray for the man whom they have called to leadership, that he may help to make this truly a "Nation Under God."

Poetry Page

Television Tribulations

A horrible scream,
The lights go out,
A fiendish laugh,
And then—a shout.
Our hero comes,
He sees the bed,
“Alas,” he cries,
“My love is dead!”
To find the killer,
He makes a vow. . . .
Oh! The TV set
Went blank just now.
A frantic twisting
Of dial and knob,
“Oh, hurry, please,”
The viewers sob.
On bended knee
They scream a threat.
With maddened eye
My answer get—
“I’m trying, but,
It is no use—
We’ll never know
Who got the noose.”

—Fran Heron

Prediction

The sands of time are running out.
The trap is set and just about
To spring on him and put to rout
All the joys of bachelorhood.
But let it please be understood,
A life with wife is very good.

—Pat Cunningham

Possessions

I envied her, for she had known
The tawny roads of Spain,
The scent of highland heather,
And Paris in the rain.

The lift of planes, the roll of ships,
The ease that money brings.
A mansion’s comforts, foreign cars,
Perfume and furs and rings.

But when my children came from school,
And I spread jam on bread,
There was a yearning in her eyes . . .
“I envy you,” she said.

—Jenny Maxwell

Grains of Sand

The glistening, golden grains of sand,
As far as any eye can reach:
How many million must it take
To make a spreading ocean beach.

But God has numbered every grain
That lies beside the ocean’s blue;
Then how much more must his great love
Be watching daily over you.

—Ellen Earnhardt Morrison



new BOOKS

for the New Year

New Testament Concept of the Ministry

By William J. Moore. Changes which the ministry has undergone since the days of the early church and circumstances giving rise to these changes are considered in this study. A new historical consideration of the church, this book emphasizes Christ as the Word of God. Included are discussions of the original and later concepts of the Lord's Supper, Baptism, the ministry, etc. 10N184, \$1.50

Land of the Morning

By DeLoris Stevenson. A charming picture of life in the Philippines. The author pictures the merging of two cultures, the richness of ancient native traditions mingled with modernity of the West, telling of nipa huts, native fiestas, converted headhunters and many more intriguing experiences among these fascinating people. Line drawings by Filipino artists D. and U. Solis. 10L268, \$2.50

Claim These Victories

By J. Clyde Wheeler. For everyone trying to cope with the load of doubts and fears that weigh so heavily upon us today. The author is convinced that anyone who earnestly puts Christianity to work in his life, and who really puts his trust in God, can win the victories that make for glorious and rich daily living. 10C496, \$2.50

What We Believe

Edited by James M. Flanagan. Thought-provoking articles on what Disciples of Christ believe—written by such eminent leaders as C. E. Lemmon, Hampton Adams, Granville Walker and Perry Epler Gresham—discussing such vital subjects as the Lord's Supper, Christian unity, the Holy Spirit, etc. While not creedal statements or authorized documents of faith, these articles are certain to awaken new convictions and refresh one's faith. Just published! 10W376, \$1.00

The Prophetic Voice in Protestant Christianity

By Ralph G. Wilburn. This sixth member of the Bethany History Series discusses three imposing subjects, perennial values of Protestantism, problems of revelation and the challenge of Christian unity. Stressing the quest for God's truth, and urging organic unity of churches, Dr. Wilburn provides a rich basis for scholarly study. 10P430, \$3.00

What Are You Doing?

By G. Curtis Jones. No man knows when he is being observed. To emphasize the importance of Christian witness in daily life, here are revealing real-life portraits of lay people who do not allow themselves to forget Christ despite how busy and important they may be. Tells of Alvin Dark, True Morse, Elsie Farris, and many others whose lives express their faith. 10W319, \$2.75

Nature of the Christian Ministry

By Myron C. Cole. The realization that the ministry requires the best in a man is the contention of this unusual analysis of the nature of the ministry. In discussing the requirements for a minister, the spirit a minister must nurture and his place in the church, this new book challenges the minister to be a "servant of servants, a minister among ministers." 10N183, 50 cents

Life-Situation Preaching

By Charles F. Kemp. This Pastoral Psychology Book Club Selection offers for study 12 men whose lives, preaching and thought were permeated by the realization that they must meet the needs of all their people. The sermons included are illustrative of the effectiveness which may be attained when the best psychological knowledge is combined with a deep devotion to the cause of Christ. 10L266, \$3.00

Vocabulary of Faith

By Hampton Adams. All too often familiar words lose their sharpness and intensity by frequent repetition. This seems particularly true with religious words. Dr. Adams brings vivid meaning back into the words *Revelation*, *Christ*, *Faith*, *God*, *the Holy Spirit*, *the Atonement*, *Reconciliation*, *Redemption*, *Resurrection*, *the Kingdom of God*, *the Love of God*, and *Grace*. 10V117, \$2.50

Christian Board of Publication
2700 Pine Blvd., St. Louis 3, Mo.

The American Baptist Publication Society
1701-03 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.